


Capitol
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

news

from
Hollywood

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Gordon MacRae



RUSHING HOME to Hollywood this month will come Nellie Lutcher, who has been touring top theaters and niteries since last September. She will be featured at the Red Feather Club, Los Angeles, starting May 17. Nellie's current Cap coupling of "He Sends Me" and "Come and Get It, Honey," is said to be nearing the sales marks of her earlier "Real Gone Guy" smash.

—Photo by Otto Rothschild.



Here's That Man Again

THE BIG man in the flowered sportshirt drummed nervously with his swizzle-stick on the mahogany plank. "Did you," he suddenly snorted, "happen to hear Zig Elman on Don Otis' show the other midnight? What he said made a lot of sense.

"Ziggy was playing some of his favorite jazz records and all of a sudden he got sidetracked. Started gabbing about dance bands—not jazz—dance bands. Said that the old Isham Jones crew of about 1932 got the finest ensemble sound of any band in history. Don agreed. I even found myself agreeing.

"Well, the more I think of it the more I'll buy of Mister Elman's stuff. That Jones band got a sound that was rich and lovely and danceable. A kid from Webster Grove by the name of Gordie Jenkins was writing some of that paper for old Ish and even though it was the worst depths of the depression it was tough tryin' to get in the New Yawk Lexington—biz was that hefty.

"And thinking about Jones brings up a couple of other dance crews that should've never expired. Mind you, Bub, I'm not talkin' jazz—I'm keeping this scholarly discussion in a dance band groove. Remember Ray Noble's first American outfit—yeah, the one that played a mile in the sky in the Rainbow Room? There was dance music. Real melodic. Fine beat. Soloists like Bud Freeman, Claude Thornhill, Pee-Wee Irwin, Will Bradley, Johnny Mince. Glenn Miller on slidehorn, too, and Sir Charles Spivak (when he didn't have a stomach) one of the brass. And best of all, a handsome little dark-haired gent by the name of Al Bowlly who sang his heart out, and who had the finest sense of the dramatic of them all—the Croz not excepted.

"Noble's never had a bad band and he's never written a mediocre arrangement, understand, but this 1935-36 troupe was just too much."

Mister Sportshirt jiggled his ice cubes, demanded a double, and turned back.

"If you want to get serious on this subject," he mumbled, "you gotta admit to this select circle the product of Hal Kemp. He was anything but a pop-off, and he seemed to get his best kicks sitting quietly in his dressing room playing Delius and Ravel. Well—and let me catch this one, I insist—Hal had guys like Porky Dankers and Earl Gieger and Johnny Trotter and Ed Kusby and a half-dozen more who teamed up and put down some of the most musical music yet. Trotter did a lot of the arranging and it must have stuck with him 'cause he still uses a lot of the same intros and endings for the Croz today. Play those old Kemp Brunswicks and see.

"Well, it's a crazy world. Isham Jones quit music and moved high up in the mountains of Colorado and didn't come back down for 10 years. Noble became a comedian. Kemp died in a California car crash before the war. All their musicians scattered. A lot of them are doing great today playing on movie soundtracks and on Al Goodman's broadcasts from Radio City. But there's not a one putting down any music that would be good enough for intermissions in the old Jones, Noble and Kemp days.

"And as for the straight dance bands today, the proof is at the box-office, and in niteries, and on wax. Not a one comes near the old guys, artistically or financially or anything else. Maybe, Bub, that's what's wrong with the music biz these days. Maybe the music isn't good enough.

"Why I don't care if I do. I'm having doubles, thank you, and tell the man very little ice."

Jimmy Dorsey's New Ork Loaded With Top Talent

All those months that Jimmy Dorsey spent puttering around his California house, and shooting golf with old friends, evidently wasn't wasted. For in mid-April, at his brother Tommy's huge Casino Gardens Ballroom in Ocean Park, Calif., Jimmy unshuttered a new orchestra which is fast shaping up as one of the most spectacular musical aggregations ever to be formed on the west coast.

It is not a large outfit. Jimmy, in fact, is fronting only six brass. But in that section are such satellites as Charlie Teagarden, Conrad Gozzo and Ev McDonald, trumpets, and Brad Cowans, Lloyd Ulyate and Johnny Halliburton, trombones.

Crosby Vets Join, Too

New Orleans veterans Ray Bauduc and Nappy Lamare are featured in the new JD rhythm section, Lamare doing an occasional vocal as in the old Crosby Bobcat days. The great Arnold Ross is at the piano and ex-Herman herdsman Joe Mondragon is on bass.

Art (Doc) Rando is another Crosby Dixielander, playing first alto, with Art Lyons, Al Pelligrini, Hammond Russum and Bob Lawson rounding out the

reeds. Jimmy's alto and clarinet make the section six strong.

Set For 8 Weekends

The only holdover from the band Jimmy fronted before he became ill, last December, is Bill Lawrence, vocalist. Lawrence is teaming with Dottie O'Brien, of Red Nichols renown. It isn't exactly an Eberly-O'Connell combination, it was pointed out at the opening, but the team has its points.

Jimmy, well again and playing as well as he ever has in his colorful 30-year career as a musician, decided a band needs "something different" today. And while some of the arrangements the group is using at Casino Gardens are those which Jimmy played last year, the leader is fast acquiring a batch of great old standards and jazz evergreens scored not unlike those played by the old and much-lamented Crosby Dixielanders.

Jimmy wanted something different. Now he's got it. His crew will play weekends at the Casino for eight straight weeks.



JUST 9, but already a vet on the Hollywood air, is Anna Mae Slaught, who chirps on the Abbott & Costello Kid show via ABC. Anna Mae can't read a note—she never took a lesson—but she sells a strong lyric. You have to see her to believe 'er.



JACK SMITH lost some of his bouncing buoyancy last month after a hectic day in Philadelphia in which he appeared at 10 radio stations, made four charity transcriptions and performed at a youth gathering at the Click niter. But he's happy again now, singing with a smile in his voice, and he even summoned enough strength to make a quick visit to Hollywood regarding his nightly CBS airshow.

Hollywood Bowl Will Test Kenton Potency

Stan Kenton's roaring tour of the Middlewest, South and East will range all the way from the University of Missouri this month to the Kleinhaus Music Hall in Buffalo. And then, in June, the Artistry in Rhythm troupe points west for an all-out assault in mammoth Hollywood Bowl.

The Bowl seats 19,000 persons and with emergency seating, can accommodate as many as 25,000. It will be the biggest test of the Kenton career. He and his band, June Christy on deck as singer, will play the Bowl June 12, for the one night only. Then they go north, along the Pacific coast, for dates in California and the Pacific Northwest.

Irving Kluger has replaced Shelly Manne on drums. Kenton also is switching his potent, screaming trumpet team around. Two new faces are expected in the section when Kenton hits Los Angeles early next month.

The unprecedented demand for Stan's dissonant music is illustrated by his bookings for May. From the Missouri campus he hops to Cincinnati, then to Ann Arbor, Buffalo, Vermilion, Ohio; St. Louis and back west to Oklahoma A. & M. College at Stillwater, home of the world's greatest basketball teams for two decades.

From Oklahoma, Kenton swings west. And then the Hollywood Bowl.

Carle Ork Bags Summer Airshow From Hollywood

Frankie Carle's music will take over where Phil Spitalny's chicks left off on the summer Electric show which Spitalny's fems have held down the past 39 weeks. Carle, who opens on May 11 at the Los Angeles Ambassador for four weeks at the Coconut Grove following Guy Lombardo, will do his new series every Sunday from the Hollywood studios of CBS.

Last year, the summer replacement for Spitalny was a package featuring Peggy Lee and Woody Herman with Dave Barbour's band.

With his daughter, the former band singer Marjorie Hughes, recovering slowly from a critical illness, the pianist also will be able to spend the summer months near her bedside.

Doubleday Gets 'Trumpet' Book

Doubleday, one of the largest and most successful American book publishers, last month obtained publication rights to "Trumpet on the Wing," a book by Wingy Manone and Paul Vandervoort.

The tome tells the story of American jazz through the eyes of Manone Vandervoort, who did the actual writing of notes supplied him by the New Orleans trumpeter, is a Burbank magazine writer who has also had several songs published.

Harry Davis Due

British bandleader Harry Davis is expected in Hollywood this month to visit his daughter, Beryl Davis, who sings on the Hit Parade program.



FRANKIE CARLE, who opens on May 11 at the Coconut Grove of the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles, will be reunited with his daughter, Marjorie Hughes, for the summer. Shown with Frankie here, she has been critically ill for several months. She used to sing with his band.

Trenier Twins Set For Sixteen Weeks

Claude and Cliff, the Trenier twins, left Los Angeles April 23 for an engagement in San Francisco with their band at the "Say When" Club. They will alternate between the Frisco boite and the Somerset House in Riverside, Calif., for 16 weeks during the coming summer months.



AN INTERESTING experiment in education, sociology and music is being attempted in Hollywood these days.

Dave (Ace) Hudkins has launched a "finishing school" for young musicians who have had no experience with name or semi-name dance bands. Hudkins, a pretty fair country drummer himself and a former associate of Art Shaw, has organized classes for aspiring sidemen. Groups of 30 to 40 musicians gather. Hudkins passes out high-class, special arrangements by men like Dave Matthews, Jerry Gray and Tommy Todd, and then a topflight Hollywood professional (guys like Eddie Miller, Ray Linn and Dodo Marmarosa have already appeared) steps in and conducts the youngsters.

The plan has merit. For too many years, youngsters striving to become musicians have graduated from high school into bistros and dens and left to fend for themselves. The Hudkins plan is a sort of "farm" system which allows the young musickers to obtain experience in excellent surroundings, and the ones who show real talent will be placed with the big bands. Hudkins holds forth at Art Whiting's Studios, 6110 Santa Monica Boulevard, Hollywood (38). A lot of folk are watching the venture with interest.

Music recorded by some of the world's foremost jazzmen at the many "Just Jazz" concerts presented in the Los Angeles area by Gene Norman will replace the current series of "Down Beat" programs beamed overseas to servicemen (and in American hospitals) by Armed Forces Radio Service. Bill Willard will produce the series and Norman himself will do the announcing. New programs begin in June.

Al Jolson left for N. Y. after his April 29 broadcast. He will do three shows from Manhattan and then return to H'wood, airing from several cities en route.

David Rose will conduct in Hollywood Bowl this July. His summer tour with Red Skelton has been nixed.

With Perry Como in Hollywood for his MGM work, his Chesterfield broadcasts are being aired from west coast twice-weekly instead of three times a week.

'Just Another Singer' Now One Of Nation's Hottest Attractions

(This Month's Front Cover Feature) Not too many seasons back, he was just another dance band singer. Horace Heidt had a dozen of 'em, and Gordon MacRae was neither the best nor the worst.

But that same handsome, golf-crazy MacRae is becoming a "big man" rapidly in Hollywood these days. He has his own Texaco-sponsored ABC airshow, following Bing Crosby every Wednesday night; his Cap waxings are beginning to move like mad, and he is in the middle of his second picture at Warner Brothers.

Gordie's first film, originally tagged "The Fighting Terror," has since been retitled "The Big Punch." Wayne Morris is the star. It will be released in June. The second—a big budgeter—is "The Life of Marilynn Miller" and in it, MacRae is rating third billing next to June Haver and Ray Bolger. It is Bolger

who is teaching MacRae to dance in the pic; Gordie plays the part of Marilyn's first husband, Frank Carter.

MacRae, his wife and three youngsters live in a home they recently purchased in the Valley, but if the radio show and the pix go well, MacRae hopes to take his family back to New York for a long vacation next fall. It all depends upon the brothers Warner. And a few thousand MacRae fans.

Dunham Heading For Palladium

Sonny Dunham gets the call to follow Henry Busse at the Hollywood Palladium starting June 1.

Dunham has played the Pally twice previously. Since appearing here, however, his band has been entirely reorganized. Sonny doubles, up front, on trombone and trumpet. And once in a while, he sings. Busse, currently at the Palladium, replaced Charlie Spivak late in April.

Frankie Laine, Shep Fields Due in July

The new L. A. Ambassador Hotel's Coconut Grove will inaugurate a new policy starting July 13 when Frankie Laine opens as headliner, the first singer to get top billing in a decade or more. Frankie will be on the same bill with Shep Fields' whipling withm. Both will hold forth for four weeks. Guy Lombardo is currently at the Grove while Freddy Martin plays a San Francisco hotel.

'I'm No Yogi,' Says Eden Ahbez

The quiet little 35-year-old man who composed "Nature Boy" is NOT a Yogi, he wants it known, and he is very much an American—born in Brooklyn, in fact.

Eden Ahbez (the "z" is silent) also denies Tin Pan Alleyites' charges that the melody of "NB" is lifted from a classic or an ancient Hebraic melody. Ahbez says that if it is similar, it is strictly coincidence. "I composed an entire suite," he argues. Cole, it seems, merely took one phase of the suite and put it on wax. It is the biggest record of the season.

A philosopher essentially, Ahbez also is a strict vegetarian. He loves music—every kind of music. He would like to promote friendliness among all peoples and races. He sums it up like this:

All words lead to that
For which there is no word;
All thoughts lead to that
Which is unthinkable;
All paths lead to the heart
Which is the end of paths;
For to live in the heart
Is to live in the whole.



RADIO DIALERS east of Denver can't hear Vicky Palmer and her songs, with Buzz Adlam's ork over ABC, because the show is aired only via the net's west coast web. But westerners hear Vicky regularly on "Melody, Inc."

Charlie Barnett A Nitery Operator

Charlie Barnett became a night club impresario last month in North Hollywood when he purchased and took over the management of the Doll House on Ventura Blvd.

Spot is located about a block from Club 47, operated by Nappy Lamare and Doc Rando, also prominent in music circles.

Charlie is gigging occasionally with his band, but not taking anything too seriously these days.

The Mab hired the Hollywood Four Blazes to provide music at the Doll House. And on May 15, he expects to take his band into the Casino Gardens following the current Jimmy Dorsey.

Julia Lee

AND HER BOY FRIENDS



'THAT'S WHAT I LIKE'

Solid boogie tune with zesty lyrics. Brilliant instrumentalizing.

'CRAZY WORLD'

Moody and bassy. With outstanding array of jazz greats.

Capitol RECORD NO. 15060

Rendezvous with PEGGY LEE'

With Dave Barbour And His Orchestra At Last! Peggy's very own album:

WHY DON'T YOU DO RIGHT
(Get Me Some Money, Too)
I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING BUT LOVE
THEM THERE EYES
STORMY WEATHER
'DEED I DO
DON'T SMOKE IN BED



ALBUM CC-72 \$3.00 plus tax



BENNY CARTER (right) has abandoned the good and abundant life of California to return to his native bailiwick, New York. And Herb Jeffries, center, is back in California after a long visit in New York. Jimmy Mundy, arranger and composer, has lived in both states but won't commit himself on preference. All three got together, briefly, in Hollywood in mid-April to discuss the music biz. They decided there isn't any.

Meet the Jockey!

ROSS SMITHERMAN was recently voted the "most popular" jock in the city of Mobile. And after 18 years at the mike, he should be. Now 33, Ross is heard morning over Mobile's WALA. He's a crack ad-libber and employs whacky sound effects. No stuffed shirt, he likes to interview the station's janitors, mail men and delivery boys who happen into his studio. WALA is Mobile's oldest station, an affiliate of NBC, and Smitherman has helped it reach its enviable position. "I'll play anything," he says, "so long as there's a hole in the middle and the needle fits the grooves."



Palladium May Hire Local Orks

Business has been so bad at the world-famed Hollywood Palladium that its management is actually considering hiring local orchestras which make no pretense of being "big names."

For a time the Palladium management assumed the dip in box-office receipts was to blame because the name bands were out their welcome in six and eight-week engagements. All contracts with bands now in the vault are for a maximum of four weeks.

But evidently that isn't the entire trouble. Too many of the co-called "top" outfits simply failed to draw dancers. Bookers sold the bands for too much money. Henry Busse, who just opened, won't break any records, according to Maurice Cohen, the Pally's manager, and only Woody Herman has done "real good" of the last six or eight crews to play the place, it was said.

Things are desperate. But Cohen's threat to book young, unknown California bands is being taken with a grin by the big bookers. They feel he merely wants to get the big bands for a lot less money—and he probably will.

Phil Harris Sailing

Phil Harris will open on July 12 at the Palladium, London, with Jack Benny. Harris will use British musicians.

'New' Jo In Folk Music Package

And Paul Weston Explains It Here

By PAUL WESTON

WITH THE release of the new Jo Stafford album of "American Folk Music" Capitol has taken a step which will undoubtedly provoke much comment within the next few months. The album marks a rather radical departure from that which is customarily expected from a singer of popular songs, and the songs themselves, while done in concert by many of our better known balladeers, are here presented with orchestral accompaniment in a style which may, at first, seem rather unusual to the American public.

"Loud Wails" Expected

It is undoubtedly to be expected that loud wails will be heard from the "purists" who believe that American folk songs should be presented with an accompaniment of only guitar, zither or dulcimer. These objections will be somewhat similar to the ones which first greeted the use of orchestra by Leopold Stokowski in his transcriptions of the Bach chorales. What the objectors failed to realize was that Bach's music was thus made palatable to a portion of the public who knew little more of him than the extreme boredom rising from a childhood study of the Two-Part Inventions.

The love ballads of the Smokey Mountain country of Kentucky and Tennessee are real songs, and in this album an attempt has been made to present them as such.

Simple, He Says, But Moving

The simplicity and loveliness of the melody and harmonic structure of these songs have most carefully been preserved, and instead of the customary emphasis on lyrics, with occasional strumming of the traditional guitar, zither and dulcimer, an attempt has been made to present the folk songs as songs. With the instrumental background sustaining the simple harmonic beauty, the finished product is a lovely song, sung and accompanied in a simple yet moving manner.

The idea for the album grew out of the presentation of one of these ballads, "He's Gone Away," on Miss Stafford's Chesterfield Supper Club radio program. The mail response was considerably more gratifying than was expected, and over a six-month period more requests were received for this song than for any



JO STAFFORD and Paul Weston—he makes his debut as a writer this month—collaborated closely in producing Jo's spanking new "American Folk Songs" album just released by Capitol. Weston tells how it all came about in the adjacent columns. His band and Jo's songs are aired Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays via NBC for Chesterfield.

—Photo by Charlie Mihn.

popular ballad of the day. With this as a stimulus, more songs were gathered and presented, and thus the idea of the album was based on an actual expression of opinion by the American listening public.

Jo's Family From Tennessee

The preparation of the material was not just the work of a week or two, for there are more than 100 different versions of "Barbara Allen" alone, and careful research was employed in an attempt to present an interesting yet authentic version of each song. And in being a singer and not just a song stylist, and because of family ties reaching back to Tennessee, Miss Stafford possesses the vocal equipment and native

"feel" for the music which is so important to a proper interpretation.

With the interest in American folk music developing more and more rapidly, it is hoped that this album may contribute in a small way to the growth of this interest and to the recognition that our American folk music is something of which we may well be proud.

Sammy Snags Smoke Stanza For Summer

Sammy Kaye and band will be heard five nights a week through the summer months as a replacement for the Jo Stafford and Perry Como "Supper Club" programs sponsored by Chesterfield cigs. It's likely that Jo and Como will return in the fall.

Johnny

With Paul Weston And His Orchestra

Capitol RECORD NO. 15051

Mercer

'GOOFUS'
Grand old Goofus is back, with mirthful Mercer tops. Cleverly corny!

'THE HILLS OF CALIFORNIA' With the Pied Pipers
Breezy description of California's grandeur. Swing rhythm.

stan **KENTON**

And His Orchestra

'THE PEANUT VENDOR'
Wonderful new version with vivid Latin quality. Trombone solo by Mill Bernhart.

'THERMOPOLAE'
Driving, pulsing, blasting POWER!
Stan shines on piano.

Capitol RECORD NO. 15052



BACK IN California after a couple of years in Boston, Ella Mae Morse has resumed her caroling career, preferring to emphasize radio guest shots and occasional nitery assignments. Here, she's caught on a Cap record date by Photographer Otto Rothschild.

WHAT'S JOHN Mercer eavesdropping, at right, over the shoulder of Ticker Freeman at a rehearsal for the Tuesday night NBC "Call For Music" program which teams Johnny with Dinah Shore—whom Freeman is coaching in this shot—and the orchestra of Harry James. The show just moved from CBS to its new Tuesday night NBC spot. Philip Morris is the sponsor.



BENNY GOODMAN and Lionel Hampton jam it lightly in this scene from Sam Goldwyn's "A Song Is Born" film starring Danny Kaye. The picture was made last summer. Goodman goes east this month to play a Philly night club; Hampton has been on tour for seven years. A raft of other topflight musicians also will be seen in the movie.



Young Clary Whiz Joins Goodman 6



Some of his fans will charge that he is carrying coals to Newcastle—or Philadelphia—but Benny Goodman is determined to open on May 24 at the Philly Click Club with a young hot clarinetist featured in the Benny Goodman Sextet.

The clarinetist is Stan Hasselgard, who came to the U. S. last year from Sweden, and who has impressed Goodman mightily on the west coast in recent weeks. Just how Benny will feature another stick hasn't yet been worked out, but Goodman says he feels so strongly about Hasselgard's talent that he will take him east just to "show him off."

Red Norvo also is expected to make the long trip. And although he has resumed his xylophone work recently in Hollywood, Red claims he will only take his vibes on the Goodman tour. Norvo became a father last month. A red headed daughter was born to Mrs. Norvo in Santa Monica.

Also destined to make the trip with Goodman are Wardell Gray, tenor saxist; Frank Bode, a Swedish drummer and friend of Hasselgard's, and the veteran Charlie Drayton, bassist, long with Benny Carter. Jimmy Rowles may make the trip on piano, but Benny has been attempting to get Teddy Wilson to take over the Steinway and the question still hasn't been settled. Rowles is doing the rehearsing.

Goodman will remain in the east all summer.

He also will sponsor his own dances, with a full-sized crew, starting June 18, at White Plains, N. Y., every Friday and Saturday.

SLAM-BANG entertainment, with emphasis on percussion, is offered by Andy Russell on his Mutual Revere Camera program. Andy still carries a card in Local 47, American Federation of Musicians, and hasn't forgotten the old days when he thumped tubs for Gus Arnheim and Johnny Richards. Also on the program with Andy are the Pied Pipers, Marion Hutton and the orchestra of Ray Sinatra.



NEW YORK is next for Memphis-reared Kay Starr, who proved the most sensational attraction to hit the jackpot on the west coast last winter. Working for the first time in Gotham as a single, Kay opens on May 4 at Cafe Society in Greenwich Village, and thus takes another hop up the tricky ladder to success. She's now at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, as headliner.

—Photo by Otto Rothschild.

Ziggy Elman Quits The Road For Studio Job

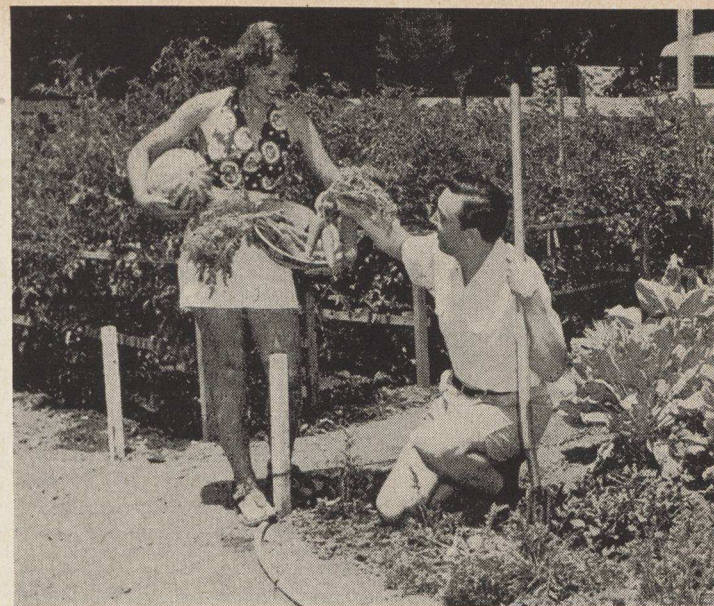
"Fifteen years is enough. I'm through with the road."

That's how Ziggy Elman feels about travel these days. Last month he quit Tommy Dorsey "for good" and purchased a house in the Valley—a few miles from Hollywood—and from here on out he intends to be a local yokel.

The popular trumpeter has never been a member of Los Angeles AFM Local 47 despite all the years he has spent in the Golden Bear state. So now he is waiting out the time required by the union for membership.

Ziggy, who played trombone before he played trumpet, paid high tribute to Dorsey on Don Otis' midnight KLAC show. He likewise hailed Benny Goodman, in whose band Elman hit the big-time 11 years ago. "As soon as Local 47 grants me a card," he said, "I'll shoot for a radio program or two and maybe wind up, eventually, as a conductor. That would suit me fine.

"But whatever happens, I'll not be ordering train or bus tickets soon. I'm through with travel forever."



IT'S SPRINGTIME in California, too, and although the change of seasons isn't as radical as it is in the other 47 states, Alvino Rey and wife, Luise King Rey, hit the dirt for their annual gardening project. The Reys live in Encino, a half-hour from Hollywood in the San Fernando Valley. And when Alvino isn't sowing seeds he's leading a band.

Meet the Jockey!

MIMI CHANDLER is a former Hollywood starlet who is nuts about baseball and music. She uses her knowledge of the latter art in conducting her own two-hour "Coffee Time" program every a.m. over WVLK in Versailles, Ky. A rabid jazz fan, Mimi likes all types except bebop. She spins every type of disc and frequently chimes in and sings along with them. Mimi likes golf, too, but baseball is her passion. Probably because her pappy, A. B. Chandler, is Commissioner of Baseball in the U. S.



Trianon Tags Talbert Ork

A Young California dance band which for many months has vainly been attempting to get the "big break" finally got a start, on April 23, when the Trianon Ballroom packed the crew to play every Friday night.

Tommy Talbert is the leader of the five brass, five reeds and three rhythm aggregation. He also writes all the arrangements. Billy Stuart (pronounced "Short") is vocalist. Talbert has been rehearsing the group for more than a year. They will hold forth every Friday at the Trianon.

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'SUSPICION'

with **Jo Stafford** and Paul Weston's Mountain Boys

Jo in "Tim-Tayshun" mood, suspects her spouse of stepping out.

On other side "CLABBERIN' UP FOR RAIN"

All about folks in the hill country who get riled up.

Capitol Record No. 15068

HEAR 'EM—BUY 'EM BOTH!

green-eyed monster!

'SUSPICION'

with **Tex Williams**

Tex's kinda-personal talking style, with different lyrics from Jo's version.

On other side 'FLO FROM ST. JOE, MO.'

Trick rhyming and lively tune put this across.

Capitol Record No. 40109

Capitol RECORDS



MGM All-Out For 'W & M'

MGM hopes to break its long string of inferior film musicals with "Words and Music," which went into production last month. Story is based on the songwriting success of Richard Rodgers and the late Lorenz Hart.

Perry Como will have the heaviest singing assignment, and others to be seen will include Mick Rooney, Judy Garland, Betty Garrett, Lena Horne, Gene Kelly, Ann Southern, Tom Drake, Cyd Charisse, Vera Ellen, Mel Tormé and Janet Leigh; the studio may also insert Sinatra, Van Johnson, June Allyson and others into the cast for short spots to hypo the box-office appeal. Rodgers and Hart songs slated to be heard in the film include "Falling in Love With Love," "My Heart Stood Still," "Lover," "Romance," "I Didn't Know What Time It Was," "Thou Swell," "The Lady Is a Tramp," "Everything I've Got," "This Can't Be Love," "There's a Small Hotel," "Mountain Greenery," "Here In My Arms" and "Manhattan."

Virtually all these tunes were recently recorded by Margaret Whiting in Capitol's "Rodgers and Hart" album. Como is supposed to sing six of 'em in the pic.

COMBINING domestic and professional endeavors a la Peg Lee and Dave Barbour, Steve Steck and Mrs. Steck (Irene Woods) meet in "Coffee Dan's" between broadcasts. Steck is one of the town's better trumpeters; Irene is vocal soloist on the Jack Carson show.

Julia Lee Will Play Theaters

Julia Lee finally takes leave of Kansas City, where she has held forth for 14 years in the same nitery, late in May. The Wm. Morris office has set up a theater tour in the east which will find the "Snatch and Grab It" gal teaming with Billy Eckstine.

Julia, rated by The Billboard and other trade pollsters as the top seller in the sepia field, on wax, will play the New York Apollo, then the Adams in Newark starting June 3, and following with the Regal in Chi on June 11. She and Eck will play each location for one week only. Sam (Baby) Lovett, Kaycee drummer, will accompany Julia on the vaude tour. Other dates are being set up to round out the month. Then Julia will return to the new Milton's Taproom in Kansas City.

Peggy LEE

WITH DAVE BARBOUR AND HIS ORCHESTRA

'LAROO LAROO LILI BOLERO'

That gal goes Latin again! Another sure hit for Peggy, with Dave Barbour and The Brazilians.

'TALKING TO MYSELF ABOUT YOU'

"Sitting by myself with nothing to do" Peggy and some mighty sweet lyrics.

Capitol RECORD NO. 15048



PERRY COMO, back in Hollywood this month after training out a couple of years ago in a huff, is happily anticipating his return to the films. MGM has promised him half the world, including the opportunity to be plain Perry Como, and his first assignment is in "Words and Music."

Como's unhappy experiences at 20th-Fox soured the Pennsy crooner on the movies. But he now feels the deal is right. The picture is based on the careers of the songwriting team of Rodgers and Hart. Lena Horne will have a choice spot, too, but the big acting roles have already gone to Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Tom Drake and Betty Garrett.

Fastest rise of any male singer in 1948 is being attributed to big-voiced Gordon MacRae, who has been around for years (he crooned for Horace Heidt before the war) and who was just another baritone until now. With a fat picture contract at Warner Brothers, his own half-hour Texaco show coast to coast and a brace of best-selling Cap discs to his credit, Gordie is suddenly clutching the top rung of the ladder. And one of his biggest boosters—one who talks Gordie up constantly and plugs him over the air—is Bing Crosby.

Pearl Bailey, who fell and banged up an elbow painfully while working in Paramount's "Isn't It Romantic?" pic, got out of town as soon as her doc would allow her.

Blonde Doris Day, coming along nicely as a Warner Brothers' actress, currently is working in "My Dream Is Yours" under Mike Curtiz with Jack Carson, Eve Arden and S. K. Sakall. Curtiz, who is convinced the former Les Brown oriole can become one of the biggest stars in movie history, also has announced he will star Doris in a Technicolor epic, "The '49'ers," which goes into production July 12. Pic deals with the California gold rush.

Bing Crosby in N. Y. this month.

Back from London, where he scored an "astounding" success, Danny Kaye is already at work in "Happy Times" at Warners. It's a musical, the first Danny has made under his new WB contract. Jerry Wald produces.



AN EXULTING Perry Como will be seen in MGM's "Words and Music" film. Como, two years ago, was so unhappy with his 20th-Fox contract that he had it abrogated, vowing to make no more movies until he read the script. The Metro role will find him playing the role of Perry Como. That should make everybody happy.

Queen Mary Hauls Cap Execs Abroad

Off on a European trip which may result in one of the recording industry's big news stories of 1948, James B. Conkling and Sander Porges of Capitol sailed on the Queen Mary from New York in mid-April, expecting to remain abroad six to eight weeks.

Capitol records are not available in Europe.

Conkling is chief of Cap's artists and repertoire division in Hollywood; Porges heads the foreign department. Several countries will be included in their May itinerary.

Jim Smith in Debut As McShann Vocalist

Jay McShann opened on April 16 at the Downbeat Club in downtown L. A. with a fly small combo which features the voice of young Jim Smith. McShann declared it was likely that the veteran Walter Brown also may rejoin Jay's crew while the band is in California.

McShann, a brilliant pianist from Kansas City, is in the Downbeat for four weeks with options, and booked by GAC.



THE UNPREDICTABLE Tom Dorsey is at it again. His marriage to pretty Jane New, 23-year-old daughter of a Veterans' Administration attorney in Atlanta, probably rated as surprise one of last month. But in deuce spot was TD's acquiring a British baritone, Denny Dennis, as soloist for the Dorsey band.

Hollywoodians are more mystified about the singer than the marriage, for never before, since Pearl Harbor, have the lists of unemployed chanters been so lengthy. Dennis is no youngster (he will soon be 35) and he is completely unknown in the U. S. But his career in England has been brilliant and it is possible that the shrewd TD intends to present and "build" Dennis as the late Al Bowlly was promoted, in this country, a decade ago with Ray Noble's American ork.

There will be a scad of a new faces in the Dorsey band, too, when it returns to the west coast next fall. Right now Tommy is breaking in several young sidemen. The new Mrs. Dorsey told Atlanta newspapermen she would "enjoy" singing with the outfit, but Tommy laughed and said it probably wouldn't happen.

Dorsey's ballroom, the Casino Gardens in Ocean Park, Calif., meanwhile opened for the summer season with brother Jimmy Dorsey's new band on the stand. It is likely, said Jim, that Tommy won't play the Gardens at all this summer.

"But," he added, "it's silly for me to say that. Who knows what that guy is going to do?"

Harry James intends to make several movie shorts to be used in advance of the band on the road. Idea is being shaped up by Harry's mentor, Frank Monte, who believes the films can be used like movie trailers to hypo interest in coming personal appearances.

Helen Forrest slated to spend most of May doing a singing single at Slapsy Maxie's Wilshire Boulevard boîte. She will follow Marion Hutton.

Fred Waring, in Hollywood on vacation, announced that the 1948 Waring Workshop would open on June 13 for 10 one-week sessions. The school is at Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pa. The student body will comprise music educators and choral directors, from 44 states, Hawaii and Canada.

Waring, meanwhile, will broadcast with his troupe, from the Workshop campus this summer.

Eddy Howard may do a legit play. His press agent swears it.

Bob Carroll landed the permanent male vocal spot on Mutual's "California Melodies" program.

Mrs. Lynn Allen (wife of the Merry Mac) had a daughter on Easter Sunday in a Hollywood hospital. The Macs don't return home from London until June.

Fast-talking Milton Karle, Broadway flack, pulled into H'wood and insists he will "rest" until September. His tub-pounding for Kenton, Peg Lee, Nellie Lutcher and other attractions has done much to make them top box-office attractions.

Walter Gross took his little combo into the small room of Ciro's following a disastrous fire which burned Cezar's eatery to the ground. Abe Most is featured, on clarinet, along with Gross' piano.

Nat Cole hoped to bring his trio to California in May but, instead, accepted a 17-day engagement at the Rag Doll, Chicago, starting May 14. He came back from his Mexican honeymoon speaking exactly nine words of Spanish.

Nellie LUTCHER

And Her Rhythm

'HE SENDS ME'

Bounces along in mad-cap mood, with lilting lyrics a la Luther.

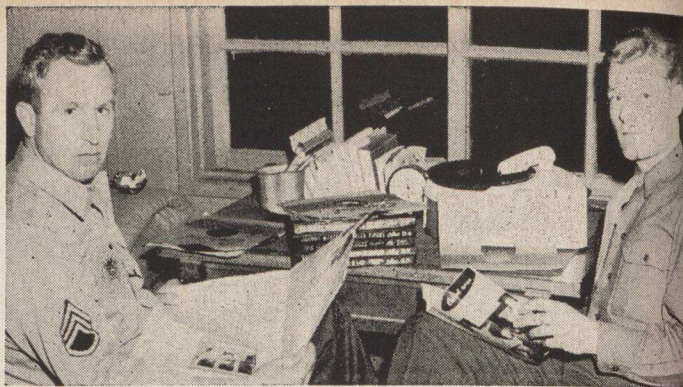
'COME AND GET IT, HONEY'

Slow, insinuating rhythm with Nellie sending the invites.

Capitol RECORD NO. 15064

CC who's where

NELLIE LUTCHER: Red Feather, opening May 17.
JIMMY DORSEY: Casino Gardens.
CHARLIE BARNET: Casino Gardens, opening May 15.
PETE DAILY: Hangover Club.
FRANKIE CARLE: Ambassador Hotel, opening May 11.
HOLLYWOOD 4 BLAZES: Doll House.
MARVIN ASHBAUGH: Club 47.
JAY McSHANN: Downbeat Club.
D'VARGA: Roosevelt Hotel.
ERNIE FELICE: Ambassador Hotel.
GUY LOMBARDO: Ambassador Hotel.
ABBEY BROWNE: Charley Foy's.
HENRY BUSSE: Palladium.
DICK STABILE: Slapsy Maxie's.
TEX WILLIAMS: Riverside Rancho.
JAN GARBER: Biltmore Hotel.
WALTER GROSS: Ciro's.



WHAT WOULD YOU do in Japan? Probably just what these G.I. music fans are doing—spinning discs, reading music mags and arguing about performers and performances. S/Sgt. Homer Elliott of Chicago and S/Sgt. Kenneth E. Wallace of Los Angeles have been on occupation duty in Tokyo for a long, long time. But they admit it isn't as "hot" there as it is, these days, in Berlin.

Willing's Riders Back On Cap Western Wax Again

By LEE GILLETTE

Foy Willing and his Riders of the Purple Sage are back in the Capitol fold again after an absence of nearly four years. Willing was willing to record a number of top western songs before P-Day last Dec. 31 and Capitol has acquired them.

The first Willing release is in the stores by now, and it looks like a winner. "Anytime" is a real oldie, and is being revived by several top

stars all over the country. Incidentally, during the Willing group's engagement at the Flamingo in Las Vegas, the boys will appear nightly at two shows, get off shortly after midnight, sleep two hours, then hop a chartered plane for Hollywood to report to Republic for movie work at 7:30 a.m. with Monte Hale. Off the lot at 5 every afternoon, Willing's gang then will willingly fly back to Las Vegas for shows at 8:30 and midnight. Then two hours sleep, and then into a chartered plane for Hollywood. This goes on and on. (And they'll actually only have to maintain the pace for five days and nights.)

Travis Queer For Old Stuff

And speaking of Merle Travis, as we certainly were not, it seems that he has become an avid collector of antiques. His Van Nuys home (Travis Acres) is only a 100 by 150 lot, but boy is it loaded!

The atmosphere created by Travis takes his visitors back to Merle's home in old Kentucky, what with the beautiful maple and pine furnishings, along with brass coal-oil lamps, huge fireplaces, etc. Merle admits that many of the pieces are antique copies, but he is striving to get as many real antiques as possible. In surroundings such as Merle has set up for himself, no wonder he writes hit songs so easily . . . and no wonder he's happier staying at home, doing personal appearances with Cliffie Stone's unit.

Foreman Phillips grabbed the popular western band, the San Antonians, for his dance spot in Compton last week. The group, formerly headed by Dolph Hofner, created quite a stir around Southern California when they played for the Foreman last year, and prior to their return engagement on the coast were packing them in down Texas way. Foreman, incidentally, is back on the air daily at nine ayem on KXLA in Pasadena.

Les Paul Still Out Of Action

It will be a long time before Les Paul, guitar virtuoso, is back playing professionally again. He was recently injured in a motor car accident in Oklahoma City.

Now recuperating at his Hollywood residence, Les says that rumors that one of his arms might be amputated are ridiculous, but he confirms reports that he won't be in shape again until September, probably. His "one-man band" record of "Lover" and "Brazil" is attracting wide attention. And ironically enough, it was released just a few days after the Oklahoma smash-up.

Another Al Jolson Pic Soon to Roll

Al Jolson broke off negotiations with MGM and returned to the Columbia lot, where "The Jolson Story" was filmed. A sequel is expected to go before the cameras in July, Joley meanwhile having gone to N. Y. for radio work.

Andy Russell

With Paul Weston And His Orchestra



'BLUE SHADOWS ON THE TRAIL'

Hit tune from Walt Disney's "Melody Time"

'LOVE OF MY LIFE'

From M.G.M.'s Picture "The Pirates"



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Never has the
true sentiment of
life and love been
so beautifully
recorded...



If ever a record was
truly great, it is this one.
Hear it; with each playing
you will love it more!

NAT "KING" COLE

softly sings
the enchanting story of

NATURE BOY

with full orchestra under the direction of Frank DeVol

On Other Side - THE KING COLE TRIO with orchestra conducted by Carole Hall

Vocal by King Cole "LOST APRIL" From The Samuel Goldwyn Production

"The Bishop's Wife" Capitol Record 15064

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Plan Eastern Jaunt



READY AND EAGER for a cross-country trek to New York and other eastern locations are Peggy Lee and Dave Barbour, the Mr. and Mrs. of Pop Music, who already have their reservations made for July. Little

Nicki, their daughter will go along, too, while Dave leads the band and Peg chirps the lyrics in theaters and possibly a night club or two. The Barbours, like Stan Kenton, have a home high atop a Hollywood mountain.